

# QRC Submission

Queensland Resources Industry  
Development Plan  
Draft for consultation

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# INTRODUCTION

The Queensland Resources Council (QRC) welcomes the release of the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan (QRIDP).

QRC is the peak representative organisation of the Queensland minerals and energy sector. QRC's membership encompasses minerals and energy exploration, production, and processing companies, and associated service companies. The QRC works on behalf of members to ensure Queensland's resources are developed profitably and competitively, in a socially and environmentally sustainable way.

The QRIDP was launched to create a blueprint for the long-term future for the resources sector. QRC has engaged with the development of the draft through regional stakeholder sessions, participation on the industry stakeholder panel and through a written submission. We thank the Department of Resources for its extensive consultation process.

Since QRC made its submission to the development of the draft, our economic data has been updated. The latest data shows that the resources sector is worth \$84.3 billion to the economy and supports more than 422,500 jobs, both directly and indirectly. Overall, the sector is worth one in every five dollars to the economy and supports one in every six jobs.

The draft QRIDP notes that the resources sector plays a role in six of the Government's nine objectives for the Unite and Recover – Queensland's Economic Recovery Plan:

- Growing our regions
- Supporting jobs
- Building Queensland
- Making it for Queensland
- Investing in skills
- Protecting the environment

We believe the sector plays a role in all nine, including the imperatives of:

- Safeguarding our health – as illustrated through the industry's track record of continuing to operate safely through the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing safety-first focus while navigating the Omicron strain.
- Backing small business – as illustrated through the sector's close association with regional small businesses, spending [\\$28 billion across 15,000 small businesses and 1400 charities and sports clubs. QRC produces an annual report, highlighting local content case studies.](#)
- Backing our frontline services – through budget strength via royalties including the revised projection of [\\$6.255 billion in royalties and land rents forecast in the 2021-22 Budget Update.](#)

Given the significant financial and community contribution the sector makes, QRC believes the most important objective of the QRIDP is to signal that the Queensland Government sees a long-term vision for the resources sector and will enact policy accordingly.

# KEY QUESTIONS

The draft QRIDP poses five key questions to consider:

## ***Will the draft plan's six key focus areas support delivery of the 30-year vision?***

The QRC welcomes the commitment for a 30-year vision for the sector, while acknowledging there are challenges to delivering goals across such a long horizon. Across a 30-year period there will be seven state elections and up to ten federal elections. This is why QRC has also sought to ensure there is a multi-party or at a minimum a bipartisan commitment to the long-term future of the resources sector. To confidently invest large sums, the resources sector needs a stable and consistent government regulatory platform.

QRC notes that the majority of the 43 recommendations have an implementation time from 2022-24, with some extending through until 2026-27 and others listed as "ongoing". QRC agrees that it is important to keep a tight focus, but this suggests there will be need for further revisions of the plan in order to meet its objective of providing a 30-year growth blueprint. On that basis, QRC anticipates that the plan will remain a "living document" and that it will continue to be updated in close consultation with industry and community stakeholders.

At its bedrock principle the QRIDP should be a statement of intent for the resources sector to continue to be one of the key industries to the Queensland economy.

QRC believes the plan may benefit from the inclusion in Key focus area 1 of explicit recommendations to support traditional commodity strengths of coal, gas and metals, as well as making stronger links to the Government's hydrogen strategy. This would provide the most comprehensive basis for a strong and growing resources sector.

QRC reiterates the importance of the QRIDP being supported by a whole of Government approach, with coordinated policies between Ministerial portfolios and Government Departments. QRC believes there are some risks to achieving this objective given it is not clearly recognised in the draft QRIDP.

QRC believes it is imperative to establish a Premier's Resources Roundtable to bring together key Ministers and Directors-General to protect existing jobs as well as promote new jobs, investment and exports in the development of coal, metals, gas, petroleum, new economy minerals, renewables and hydrogen, as well as value – adding/advanced manufacturing. The Roundtable should meet at least quarterly with regular reports to Cabinet. The Roundtable should be supported by an Interdepartmental Committee (IDC) chaired by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet or Treasury.

As can be seen in QRC's attached response to each of the draft plan's actions, there are actions which are already hampered by internal Government inconsistencies. For example, Action 2, Piloting the commercialisation of an abandoned mine. Prior to the release of the draft plan the Department of Environment and Science (DES) had started stakeholder consultation on amending legislation to the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* which would require any entity wanting to undertake this pilot to be responsible for paying a financial provision for all previous disturbance on the site. It is difficult to see how any party would be interested in taking on an abandoned mine under those circumstances.

It's an example of why QRC recommends an IDC is established as a whole of government framework to oversee the implementation of the QRIDP recommendations.

***Does the draft plan address the future challenges and opportunities facing the resources industry and ensure that regional communities continue to benefit from the industry?***

The resources sector has a long track record of working with regional communities and providing support to its host communities.

As documented in QRC's [annual local content report](#) and the work with the Queensland Local Content [Leaders' Network](#), the resources sector has long recognised the value of growing local content and developing the capabilities of local suppliers. A local supplier is more likely to understand industry's needs and to suggest improvements for their operations. Local suppliers can also lower costs, reduce supply chain risks and increase the long-term sustainability of resources communities. Using local suppliers can help to reduce transport costs and fuel consumption, minimising the associated greenhouse gas emissions. This community engagement extends across commodities and is replicated in all areas across the state, from the North-West to the South-West.

The resources sector provides direct economic opportunities in the regions where it operates, and it also provides a basis for strengthening other parts of the economy, especially in regions where agriculture is the key industry. While resources projects cannot operate indefinitely, the development of projects provides a catalyst for regional economic diversity and infrastructure which can provide the skills for continued economic benefit beyond the life of an individual project.

QRC acknowledges there will be a need for continued community engagement as investments are made in expanding projects or in new types of projects such as new economy minerals, renewables and hydrogen.

In doing so, there will be an equal role for the resources sector and resources communities to contribute to the spirit of coexistence and cooperation.

QRC recommends that this partnership should be made more explicit in the plan, extending to the role of the State Government to deliver on the plan. QRC believes there is a shared role and responsibility to deliver the best outcomes.

QRC has also drawn attention to issues relating to finance and insurance, especially for smaller regional businesses working with the resource sector (see [QRC submission to the Joint Standing Committee on Trade Investment and Growth – Inquiry into the prudential regulation of investment in Australia's export industries](#))

QRC believes the Queensland Government should consider the role it can play in sending a clear signal that the resources sector has a strong future and indeed a pivotal role to play in the global transition to net zero emissions policies.

While QRC understands the global changes in how the financial sector is appraising and managing climate risks, the rapid implementation of these changes is yielding unintended consequences and has reached a critical point. For Queensland, this has particularly impacted the resource industry's supply chain, predominantly comprised of regional businesses. These smaller METS firms are particularly exposed to a change in bank lending policies, or to insurance coverage suddenly becoming far more expensive, or being otherwise unable to renew long-standing policies.

The consistent feedback from QRC members is frustration that this assessment is not informed by an understanding of the individual business and the risks in the markets it serves; but rather is seen as a perfunctory sweep of the new broom. There is no greater obstacle to the growth aspirations of regional export businesses than the sudden lack of affordable loans with neither the possibility of negotiation nor consideration of circumstances.

Queensland benefits enormously from our thriving export industries. These companies expect the same ability to access finance and insurance products as any other business in Australia.

A well-planned and executed energy policy will help clarify for financiers and insurers the key differences between Queensland's exports of LNG, metallurgical coal and thermal coal. Queensland's resources sector can continue to grow under a low emissions economy and has a clear role to play in facilitating global emissions reductions ambitions.

### ***Is there adequate support to help the resources industry leverage future opportunities?***

The draft QRIDP notes the role the Queensland resources sector has played in supporting the state's economic development for more than a century. The resources sector will continue to play this role with policy settings in place that attract future investment. QRC notes a key message of the plan that:

*"...the greatest contribution Queensland can make to the world's efforts to meet emissions targets is to find, mine, process and manufacture the metals, minerals and equipment needed to decarbonise the global economy."*

As noted in the QRC submission to the development of the draft plan, there will continue to be a strong market for Queensland's high-quality commodities, even as countries implement their decarbonisation plans and work towards net zero goals.

QRC notes the Queensland Government's position that all proposed coal projects must stack up socially, environmentally and economically. QRC believes that all resources projects should operate under the highest social and environmental standards and that they meet a market need, and the track record is that they do. This is a principle that should apply to all projects in the state, whether they be in resources, infrastructure or any other sector.

The draft QRIDP includes issues which cross over into areas of national policy, most notably decarbonisation plans. QRC reiterates the importance of ensuring that as the policy is developed it fits within a national context and works towards least-cost abatement that does not compromise industry's international competitiveness.

QRC looks forward to working with the Government on greater clarity regarding budget items that support the implementation of the plan. Some recommendations for budget proposals can be found in the attached table.

The vision must be backed up with actions, and the scale of those actions will be determined by the budget associated with it. QRC notes that page 81 of the draft QRIDP states:

*"The Queensland Government will monitor the progress of this plan towards realising our shared vision. The final plan will outline how government will report progress on actions."*

This will be a significant body of work, which QRC anticipates will require ongoing consultation, including through the IDC, and engagement.

QRC believes it is fundamental that any regulation arising as a result of the plan is outcomes-focused, not prescriptive or process-driven. However, QRC does not see regulation as a first port of call. QRC is available for further discussion with the Government on recent consultation examples.

***How will industry demonstrate its commitment to the expectations of industry. Will these expectations ensure that the shared vision for the industry is realised?***

As noted above, the resources sector has been a key contributor to the Queensland economy and Queensland communities for more than a century. The modern Queensland resources sector operates professionally, with integrity and to the highest environmental, social and workplace standards.

The sector has a long track record of working cooperatively and constructively with Governments and local communities. The sector is considered a world leader in innovation, especially with regard to the METS supply chain.

There can be no clearer example of the sector's commitment to Queensland than the leadership role the sector has taken to continue operating safely over the past two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a real time example of the importance the sector places on our regional partnerships. The resources sector is already an economic and community partner in our regions. We look forward to continuing to operate on those principles and continuing to deliver economic and community benefits to all Queenslanders.

QRC believes the best outcomes from the plan will be delivered through clear statements of intent from all stakeholders, including both the resources sector and the Government. For the resources sector's part, we have a clear role in ongoing investment in well-regulated projects that provide jobs and opportunities in local communities, and which operate under highest environmental, workplace and community standards. From the Government we hope to see continued, unambiguous support for the future of the resources sector and resources communities, both in our traditional commodity strengths such as coal, gas and metals and in the new opportunities ahead including critical minerals, hydrogen and renewables. As set out previously, this unambiguous support needs to come from all parts of Government.

Within this context, the sector will continue to work constructively with the Queensland Government within a stable policy framework that supports investments across Queensland's diverse commodity profile.

***Overall, will the proposed actions help deliver the vision of a resilient, responsible and sustainable Queensland resources industry that grows as it transforms?***

Overall, the recommendations within the draft QRIDP are relevant to providing a long-term blueprint for the future of the resources sector.

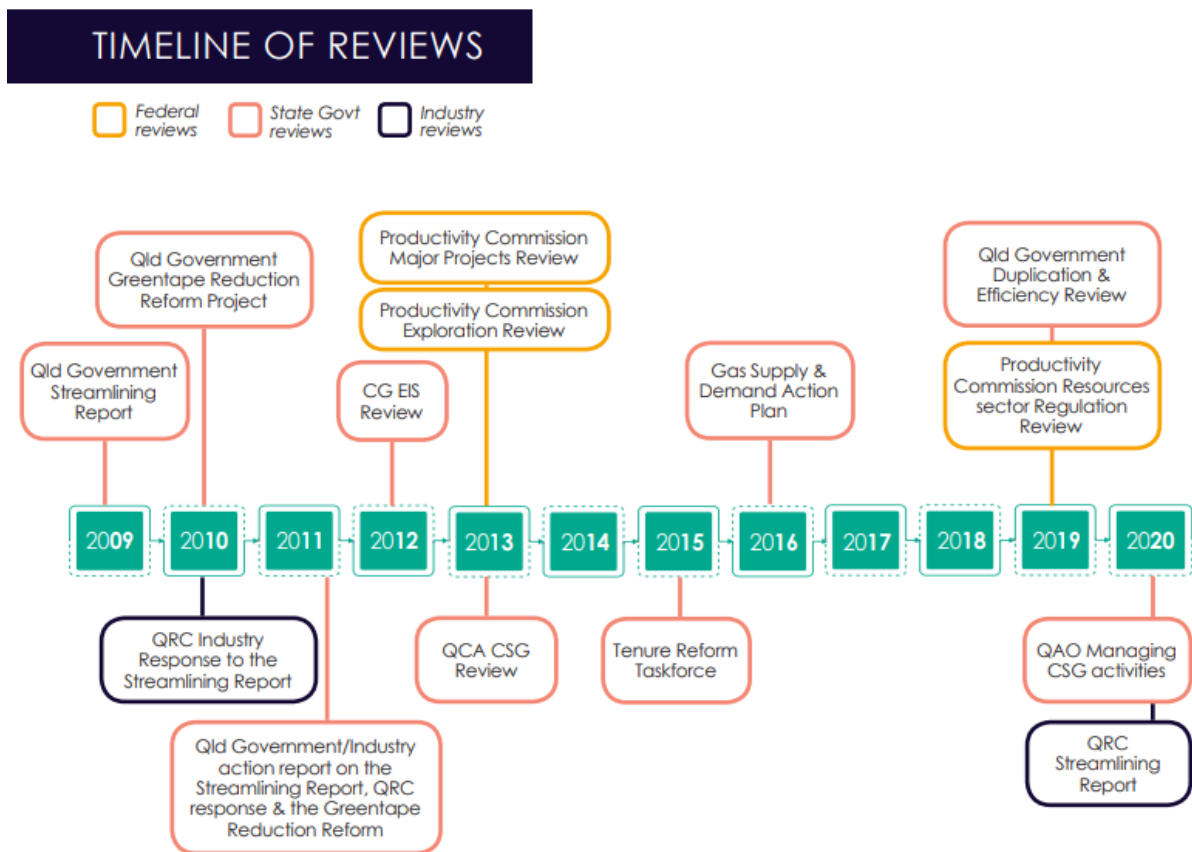
However, QRC would recommend that this question be reframed to acknowledge that the resources sector will grow as it "expands and diversifies". The nature of commodities means the profile of the resources sector will evolve over time, but QRC would suggest that the term "transformation" does not appropriately represent the inherent nature of the sector. QRC believes the Queensland resources sector is built on a foundation of strong fundamentals and

that the state has the commodity profile that will be essential to global economic development for decades into the future, certainly within the 30-year horizon foreseen by the QRIDP.

Therefore, the state's policy objectives should be to support the industry to grow, create more jobs and continue to meet the demands of the market.

That will include pre-existing global commodity markets, but increasingly it may also come to mean greater domestic markets where there is a larger value-add chain within Queensland and within Australia.

As the Government considers feedback on the plan over the coming months, with a view to releasing a final plan and implementing measures, it is worth remembering the history of reviews relevant to the sector over the last 13 years. QRC reiterates the importance of ensuring the QRIDP remains a relevant and living document, rather than becoming another in a long line of past reviews.



QRC looks forward to continuing consultation on the key measures outlined in this draft.



Recommendation #	QRC position	Summary	Budget
<p><b>1. Deliver Queensland's Collaborative Exploration Initiative</b></p>	<p>Support, with preference for stronger recommendations referenced in the KPMG Collaborative Exploration Initiative Impact Study Summary report</p>	<p>QRC supports the ongoing Government support of mineral exploration through the Collaborative Exploration Initiative (CEI) and welcomes the funding commitment through until 2024. The continuation of the CEI was identified as a key component for the QRC Resource Industry Recovery Agenda put forward to counter the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>QRC supports the key considerations set out in the KPMG report, which include new funding benchmarks to bring Queensland in line with other jurisdictions, efficiency improvements in the administration of the program and a more directive approach to funding allocation. QRC further supports ongoing rounds that do not have a matched funding component. As outlined in the KPMG report, the removal of matched funding has led to more applications for the program.</p> <p>QRC also suggests the Government provides greater feedback to mineral explorers where they are unsuccessful in accessing the CEI.</p>	<p>The Queensland Exploration Council (QEC) could partner with the Department on delivering information sessions on what makes a good application and providing broad themed feedback to the mineral exploration industry.</p> <p>To increase certainty for potential applicants, QRC requests that the initiative be funded on a recurring basis so that there is always at least two years of forward grant funding available. If you look at the <a href="#">2021 Queensland Exploration Scorecard</a>, chart 4.1 on page 19 shows just how dependent the ongoing operation of the Geological Survey of Queensland's (GSQ) is on having these exploration programs to deliver.</p>
<p><b>2. Pilot the re-commercialisation of an abandoned mine</b></p>	<p>Support as an important opportunity for Queensland, particularly around new economy minerals</p>	<p>QRC supports a pilot of the re-commercialisation of an abandoned mine. The opportunities provided for better environmental outcomes through economic rehabilitation have been well demonstrated by New Century and New Wilkie Energy. QRC</p>	<p>QRC welcomes the funding in the draft QRIDP for experienced technical consultants to inform a market sounding process to develop this pilot process.</p> <p>Adequate budget to enable appropriate consolidation of data to provide detailed</p>

		<p>members welcome the opportunity to participate in this historic pilot.</p> <p>QRC is keen to avoid repeating the experiences of an earlier tender for the Mary Kathleen site, which saw a number of companies invest substantial time and resources in submitting detailed tenders, only for the process to be abruptly halted with no feedback on those proposals.</p> <p>However, QRC notes that a preliminary proposal is under consideration for the the preparation of a 2022 Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment (EPOLA) Bill which states:</p> <p><i>Amend s300 of the EP act to make it clear that ERC includes the cost of rehabilitating all resource activity disturbance on site at the time of the application, and all that is proposed to occur in the ERC period, regardless of whether it was carried out by the current holder, or a previous holder.</i></p> <p>QRC recommends that in light of this pilot program, the draft proposal being developed by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) must be removed as it risks inconsistency with the QRIDP and will discourage companies from wanting to reprocess minerals on a site.</p> <p>Alternatively, QRC recommends the DES position should be narrowed to encourage</p>	<p>information must be available for interested parties, reducing uncertainty risks to bidders and ensuring the best economic outcome to the state.</p> <p>As this important rehabilitation and recovery work proceeds, it's important that the Department of Resources is closely engaged in each project to use the technical and project development learnings to inform future abandoned mine re-commercialisation projects.</p>
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		<p>the re-mining of sites. Where, for example, re-opening or re-use of an abandoned mine would reduce or alleviate the state of its liability, this should also be recognised.</p> <p>QRC would welcome the opportunity to engage further with the Queensland Government, in particular the Department of Resources and DES on the parameters for the pilot and next steps.</p>	
<p><b>3. Investigate promotion strategies for Queensland's new economy minerals</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC supports this initiative and would recommend a whole of government approach to resource promotion, which could be done in partnership with industry, particular companies and industry bodies. The strategy could provide useful inputs for the ongoing work of TIQ's Global Investment Commissioner.</p> <p>This recommendation aligns with work undertaken by the Australian Government, including through the <a href="#">Resources 2030 Taskforce Report</a> and the annual publication of the <a href="#">Outlook for selected critical minerals in Australia report</a>. QRC believes there is significant scope for cooperation and collaboration between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government on this initiative given the cross-jurisdictional responsibilities.</p> <p>Queensland has an opportunity to be a world leader to use essential industry data and</p>	<p>QRC recommends that the QRIDP include funding for both the development of the strategies as well as the implementation of those strategies.</p> <p>To demonstrate the depth of available technology, research and Government support, it would be particularly useful if promotion activities were co-ordinated across all Queensland Government departments associated with new economy minerals, new economy advanced materials and new economy technologies.</p>

		<p>information as a sound basis for the emerging new economy minerals industry. A useful example is information and analysis provided by the US Energy Agency (<a href="https://www.eia.gov/">https://www.eia.gov/</a>). There may also be opportunities to consider creating integrated regulatory, legal and financial tools that can assist current developers to protect and licence their new economy minerals innovations, to secure IP and create technology licencing opportunities. Such an environment could also attract new technologies and developers.</p> <p>In 2019 QRC participated in an Australian delegation to the United States to discuss the bilateral relationship relating to critical minerals. QRC would welcome the opportunity to participate in informational campaigns where appropriate in the COVID-constrained environment.</p>	
<p><b>4. Develop a Queensland Battery Industry Strategy</b></p>	<p>Support – noting the synergies with #3 (above)</p> <p>QRC also notes the effective implementation of the Strategy would help reinforce the focus of the existing \$3.25 billion QREZ policy (identified by the recent</p>	<p>QRC welcomes the announcement of a Queensland Battery Industry Strategy (QBIS).</p> <p>In its first submission to the QRIDP QRC noted the importance of strong resources regions to the ongoing vitality of the resources sector and recommended the development of regions of excellence to build on pre-existing strengths. QRC believes the development of a Queensland Battery Industry Strategy could be the catalyst for further regional investment and development, especially as Queensland seeks to develop more onshore</p>	<p>QRC recommends that the QRIDP include funding for both the development of the QBIS as well as for the implementation of those strategies.</p>

	<a href="#">Queensland Audit Office report</a> (page 31)	<p>manufacturing capacity and diversify work opportunities.</p> <p>The strategy should assess the merits of facilitating investment in regions close to the minerals that are mined and processed for use in battery manufacturing, most likely in North Queensland.</p> <p>QRC recommends the battery industry should include vanadium and lithium battery manufacturing in 10- year plan.</p>	
<b>5. Continue to implement the Queensland Government's Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan</b>	Support	<p>QRC supports the continuing implementation of the Advanced Manufacturing 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.</p> <p>QRC suggests there will be a close alignment between this recommendation and recommendations 4 and 6.</p>	After a slow start, the delivery of the advanced manufacturing roadmap has hit its straps in the past few years. QRC would recommend that the delivery of the new funding for the implementation of the QBIS (#4) be closely aligned with this recommendation and also #6 (regional manufacturing hubs) and #12 (METS Action Plan).
<b>6. Continue to support regional manufacturing hubs</b>	Support	QRC supports this recommendation and consistent with our submission QRC supports the development of regional centres of excellence to continue to support the resources sector and ensuring regional investment.	QRC recommends that the existing funding for these manufacturing hubs is increased by 25% to reflect the renewed focus on resources, batteries (#4) and critical minerals (#3 and #7).
<b>7. Review of rent for new economy minerals projects</b>	Support – this is a significant opportunity for Queensland's fledgling commodities to establish a global production presence	<p>QRC supports the Government's recognition that action may be required to ensure that royalties are not a cash-flow disincentive for investment in new economy minerals.</p> <p>While QRC supports the intent of the Resources Regional Development Framework</p>	While not wanting to limit the scope of the review, QRC recommends that nominal, but generous funds are allocated for this new rent concession. Such an announcement would substantially strengthen the implementation of #3 (promotion of new economy minerals).

	<p>It would send a strong signal to potential investors</p>	<p>announced in May 2017 – see page 47 of <a href="https://s3.treasury.qld.gov.au/files/Service-Reports-Queensland-Treasury-Annual-Report-2016-17.pdf">https://s3.treasury.qld.gov.au/files/Service-Reports-Queensland-Treasury-Annual-Report-2016-17.pdf</a>, the discretionary nature of the framework's application and assessment process have been mired in controversy. QRC welcomes the recommendation of a universal concession for a whole category of commodities. The transparency of such a rent regime is likely to help these projects attract and secure investment funding to Queensland.</p>	
<p><b>8. Facilitate and investigate common user infrastructure</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC welcomed the <a href="#">announcement from the Premier</a> of \$10 million investment to build a Critical Minerals Demonstration Plant in Townsville.</p> <p>The majority of critical mineral explorers in Queensland are currently junior companies, so a multi-user, multi-purpose demonstration processing facility lowers the cost and accelerates the development of this industry by a number of years.</p> <p>QRC believes the Government is well placed to support further investments in other types of common user infrastructure to act as a catalyst for development in the critical minerals sector. A processing facility is a logical place to start, but QRC would welcome further discussions with Government and industry about other options for future investment, which may cover more</p>	<p>QRC recommends that funds are allocated for these future co-investments to accelerate the development of critical minerals in Queensland.</p> <p>Announcing an allocation of funds available for future initiatives would substantially strengthen the implementation of #3 (promotion of new economy minerals) and #7 (new economy royalty).</p> <p>QRC recommends that nominal allocation of funds be established for common user infrastructure/facilities to support existing and new operations in contributing to a regional circular economy. This can be facilitated by the waste levy, \$1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund, and the Regional and Remote Recycling Modernisation Fund.</p> <p>QRC recommends the Queensland Government continues to work cooperatively</p>

		<p>processing or transport capacity. The Transport Minister's announcement of a \$1.8 million logistics trial on 8 December, is a good example of the type of initiative that would help critical mineral producers get established.</p> <p><a href="https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/94008">https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/94008</a></p> <p>Further to this, QRC recommends aligning this action to the <i>Draft State Infrastructure Strategy</i> which has a focus on partnerships with industry and a place-based approach to infrastructure planning through the Regional Infrastructure Plans which can assist in identifying the common user infrastructure in regional communities.</p> <p>QRC also recommends the scope of this action be expanded to consider common user infrastructure/facilities to support existing and new operations in contributing to a regional circular economy. For example, recycling and reuse of some waste streams are limited due to the remoteness of operations to collection and re-processing facilities. Attempts to access existing metropolitan facilities are hindered by logistics and transport costs, associated environmental impacts (e.g., transport emissions) and safety issues. Development of regional waste collection, recycling and re-processing hubs would drive a range of economic, social and environmental benefits. Any initiatives should align with works that</p>	<p>with the Australian Government on the development of common user pipelines for the gas industry in key regions (see recommendation #9 also).</p> <p>In terms of the North-West Minerals Province, QRC recommends the Queensland and Australian Governments continue to investigate the CopperString 2.0 high voltage network to connect the region with the National Electricity Market near Townsville.</p>
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		<p>may be underway or planned as part of implementing the Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy.</p> <p>QRC notes there may also be opportunities for common user water supply infrastructure and common user energy infrastructure to support new economy minerals development.</p>	
<p><b>9. Complete the Bowen Basin pipeline concept study</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC supports the Bowen Basin concept study and has been an active participant in stakeholder discussions. <a href="#">We welcomed the release</a> of the study on 6 January 2022.</p> <p>QRC would welcome a coordinated investment from the State and Federal Governments to progress the next steps, especially in the context of the Federal Government's Strategic Basin Plan for the Bowen Basin.</p>	<p>QRC recommends that the Queensland Government makes an early commitment to funding their share of advancing the concept work into a bankable feasibility study.</p>
<p><b>10. Review the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to enable hydrogen and other clean energy resources</b></p>	<p>Support. QRC would welcome the opportunity to contribute to developing the Terms of Reference</p>	<p>QRC supports the development of the hydrogen industry as an additional component to the state's diverse resources base and supports the appropriate legislative framework being put in place to enable the sector and capitalise on the work that is already underway in this highly competitive global industry. QRC welcomes the Government's recognition that Queensland's hydrogen opportunity needs to be seen in the context of the State's proud history of developing capital intensive processing</p>	<p>History suggests that legislative reviews can be a slow laborious process - <a href="https://www.qrc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Streamlining-Report_100620.pdf">https://www.qrc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Streamlining-Report_100620.pdf</a></p> <p>QRC recommends that the Queensland Government should allocate a generous portion of funds to ensure that there are internal resources and expertise necessary to expedite this review process. QRC would also recommend that the funding envelope include a specific allocation for industry consultants.</p>



		<p>facilities, like the three LNG facilities on Curtis Island.</p> <p>QRC believes taking this step now while the development of the sector is still in its nascent stages is an important signal about the positive future for the sector in Queensland and could provide a competitive advantage. QRC looks forward to participating in the development of the Review's Terms of Reference and will engage proactively with members on the next steps once the TOR are available.</p>	<p>Once again – QRC's experience is that these broader perspectives produce much more enduring regulatory solutions - for example the development and implementation of the <i>MyMinesOnline</i> initiative as part of the <a href="https://documents.parliament.qld.gov.au/TableOffice/TabledPapers/2014/5414T4452.pdf">Streamlining Act 2012 – see page 18</a></p>
<p><b>11. Investigate carbon capture, use and storage</b></p>	<p>Support in keeping with QRC's climate policy of technology-neutrality</p>	<p>QRC supports the Paris Agreement and its emission reductions goals and QRC supports the resources industry's national ambition for net zero emissions by 2050. QRC supports a technology-led approach for meeting emissions reductions goals.</p> <p>QRC supports investments in carbon, capture and storage technology as part of the technology-led solution to meet emissions reductions goals. The development of the technology and its application in Queensland should be overseen by a comprehensive regulatory framework consistent with the best practice framework that already exists for other environmental conditions and approvals.</p> <p>Any rollout of the technology should make use of the best practice principles developed</p>	<p>QRC would expect that the Department would be able to manage the competitive tender process within their existing resourcing.</p>

		<p>and refined as a result of the development of the CSG industry in Queensland. This should include proactive engagement with community and potential landholders. Overlapping tenure holders should be involved in the consultation process as potential impacts. Further Investigation of Carbon Capture and Storage should also consider how regulation will operate such as conditioning of Environmental Authorities.</p>	
<p><b>12. Continue to implement the Queensland METS 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Support with a refresh of the strategy and the allocation of further funding</p>	<p>Queensland's mining and engineering services (METS) sector is a world leader including in safety, mine site rehabilitation and remediation processes, knowledge and technology, contract mine servicing, and project management.</p> <p>The Queensland Government released its 10-year METS roadmap in 2017, which was integral to securing the national headquarters of the <i>METS Ignited</i> growth centre at QUT.</p>	<p>QRC advocates that this work needs to be enhanced and resourced in a manner commensurate with the economic importance of the METS sector.</p> <p>There are strong parallels in the METS strategy with the work being done on Advanced Manufacturing (#5) and QBIS (#4). QRC would expect that the updated METS strategy would have a corresponding level of funding, resources and attention.</p> <p>QRC recommends that the Queensland Government finalises delivery of the \$7 million announced by the Government in 2017 in the METS Roadmap and Action Plan. QRC recommends there may be opportunities to increase that funding to further enhance the opportunities to capitalise on Queensland's world-leading METS sector.</p> <p>QRC recommends that these outcomes may also be enhanced through additional funding for the Resources Centre of Excellence in Mackay.</p>

<p><b>13. Refresh Queensland's approach to innovation</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC supports the ongoing investment in innovation state-wide.</p> <p>QRC members have a deep knowledge base on innovation and R&amp;D. The resources sector would welcome the opportunity to participate in this process. QRC can see particular parallels with the work of Advance Queensland and recommendations #12, #6, #5, and #4.</p> <p>QRC recommends that the next Chief Entrepreneur be selected from the resources sector.</p>	<p>As QRC would expect that each QRIDP initiative is funded on a standalone basis, integrating each QRIDP initiatives into the ongoing work of Advance Queensland should be able to be completed with existing resources.</p>
<p><b>14. Establish a government–industry working group to determine appropriate government action on ESG</b></p>	<p>Support subject to industry participation</p>	<p>QRC member companies are implementing their own ESG policies, recognising its central role in business planning and interaction with local communities as well as corporate governance requirements. QRC believes companies are best placed to develop and implement ESG policies that are tailored to their own operations and reflect their individual circumstances.</p> <p>Resources companies are developing ESG policies in consultation with communities, investors and Governments. These policies reflect existing global frameworks. There is a risk in duplicating these frameworks with state-specific requirements.</p> <p>QRC does not believe it is necessary for the State Government to implement new ESG standards or replicate the work being done by companies, but there is a role for</p>	<p>QRC suggests that there is clear resourcing support for the Government-Industry Working Group (chaired by the Department of Resources).</p> <p>This Group would focus on supporting the Government to review lessons drawn from the resource industry's experience with developing and implementing ESG reforms.</p>

		<p>Government to articulate the strong ESG record of the Queensland resources sector as a whole.</p> <p>The Queensland resources sector is a leader on many ESG metrics including sustainability, inclusivity, diversity, environmental standards and engagement with Traditional Owners.</p> <p>QRC would welcome the opportunity to participate on a Government-industry ESG Working Group.</p>	
<b>15. Investigate support required for industry to build ESG capability</b>	Support, with a concurrent process currently underway at industry level	QRC believes there may be capacity for the Government to assist in building ESG capacity for smaller operators. QEC has established an ESG working group to investigate increasing ESG requirements for explorers and will discuss the findings of the group with the Government in due course. This work will operate alongside QRC's ESG policy focus.	Possible budget measure to support smaller companies with ESG guidance framework.
<b>16. Investigate research and development support options, particularly for mineral traceability technology</b>	Support	QRC supports this recommendation. A number of member companies already employ technologies, such as blockchain, for supply chain efficiencies. QRC recognises that mineral traceability will be a key component in ESG for companies going forward as well as meeting legislative requirements of developed nation markets such as the European Union.	QRC suggests that this work could form part of the refocused agenda of Advance Queensland as a specific example of #13.
<b>17. Continue to implement financial assurance and mine rehabilitation reforms</b>	Support with recognition of reforms underway since 2016	QRC has worked constructively with the Queensland Government on the development and implementation of	No additional funding required for this ongoing business-as-usual work, however funding may be required to support the development of business cases for regional-

		<p>rehabilitation and financial assurance reforms.</p> <p>The industry will continue to pursue this constructive approach, including the finalisation of the Residual Risk Assessment Guideline and its implementation.</p> <p>While the current mine rehabilitation reform is on its way to driving a higher level of environmental performance, it is only focused on activities during operations through to surrender for individual sites. To ensure rehabilitation delivers an enduring and positive on-ground legacy for communities, as is envisaged by the QRIDP, QRC recommends that the Government with the support of the mining sector and other interested parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• investigate and coordinate regional-scale, collaborative post-mining land use opportunities using post-closure mine land and assets</li> <li>• integrate collaborative opportunities with government-led regional and state strategic asset planning</li> <li>• amend or streamline existing processes and requirements to facilitate a shift to regional-scale post-mining land use planning and collaboration</li> </ul>	<p>scale, collaborative post-mining land use opportunities. Establishment of a Government interdepartmental committee will be critical to support such works.</p>
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		<p>Such actions could be guided by QRC's Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Collaboration Project. A summary of the Project is presented in Appendix A.</p> <p>In addition, QRC recommends expansion of this action to include development of legislation to remove a proponent's liability post surrender of the relevant tenure and Environmental Authority (EA), which includes successful completion of rehabilitation requirements and lodgment of any required residual risk payment. Without appropriate legislation, this will remain a fundamental deterrent for proponents to lodge surrender applications. Further details regarding this recommendation are outlined in QRC's submission on the <i>Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020</i>.</p>	
<p><b>18. Require industry to develop plans to decarbonise operations</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC member companies support the industry goal of net zero emissions by 2050 and agree on the importance of reducing emissions. QRC members are already working to lower emissions and reduce energy costs by improving energy efficiency, through electrification, adopting renewable energy, investing in co-generation and implementing demand management.</p> <p>The global need to reduce emissions has clear implications for Queensland's resources industry. Queensland's challenge is to reduce emissions at the least cost to society, and without threatening Queensland's industrial competitiveness.</p>	<p>QRC will work with the Queensland Government in the development of a more detailed proposal which operates consistently within the national emissions reduction framework.</p>

		<p>It is unlikely that a one-size-fits-all approach will be possible for application to Queensland's diverse range of operations. QRC is also concerned to ensure that any state-based regulations do not duplicate or contradict policy set at a national level.</p> <p>QRC notes the considerations put forward in the draft QRIDP including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• establishing an operational policy that requires applicants to reduce Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions for new and amended environmental authorities, as well as a reporting and monitoring framework to demonstrate progress</li><li>• updating the generic terms of reference for environmental impact statements to require applicants to prepare a greenhouse gas abatement plan to demonstrate how they can move towards net zero emissions</li><li>• establishing model conditions that require authority holders to implement greenhouse gas abatement plans, and report on progress regularly and publicly</li><li>• providing transition options for existing resources environmental authorities</li></ul>	
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		<p>QRC believes detailed consultation will be required on this proposal before any requirements are legislated, in particular as it relates to any potential for retrospective application.</p> <p>QRC is concerned that this recommendation is getting ahead of the climate aspects of the ESG review process suggested by recommendation 14. The reality is that many companies and individual operations are already moving to decarbonise on a trajectory which is steeper than goals the Queensland Government has set for the state economy as a whole.</p> <p>QRC notes that this recommendation is inconsistent with the constructive approach of #19. A heavy-handed regulation may compromise the industry's ability to innovate and improve performance outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>19. Investigate innovative options to support junior and mid-level companies to decarbonise operations</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC notes that junior and mid-level companies have different requirements and different capacity to implement decarbonisation plans.</p> <p>QRC believes that options for junior and mid-level companies should be developed subject to the feedback outlined in item 18 above.</p>	<p>QRC will work with the Government on developing a suite of behaviour change tools and an appropriate set of metrics to underpin these voluntary reforms.</p>



<p><b>20. Investigate establishment of an independent Environmental Protection Agency</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC does not believe a case has been made to move from the status quo which provides a thorough environmental assessment framework for project approvals, and strong compliance structures. Queensland's environmental protection legislation already establishes clear, independent decision-making protocols.</p> <p>Therefore, QRC does not believe there is a need for a new body that would effectively duplicate the robust framework already in place in Queensland.</p>	
<p><b>21. Continue Kati Thanda-Lake Eyre Basin consultation</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC has consistently stated that it does not believe a case has been made to move from the status quo which provides a thorough environmental assessment framework for project approvals and compliance structure for operational performance. This process more than recognises the unique environmental values of the Lake Eyre Basin, as well as developed operational standards for such operations. However, QRC recognises that the investigation of the balance between economic development and environmental protections of the Lake Eyre Basin is a long-standing election commitment.</p> <p>QRC will engage constructively with the Queensland Government via the stakeholder advisory group, and related Government processes established to consider this issue.</p>	

<p><b>22. Develop principles for strong landholder relationships</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>The Queensland mining industry, and most recently the Queensland gas industry, has developed constructive and sustainable relationships with landholders through the course of its emergence and development. This is consistent with the resources industry-wide approach to working co-operatively with local communities. While these relationships have been refined and enhanced over time, the approach is based on mutual respect and development of resources in the interests of the landholder, the state and the company.</p> <p>QRC believes that Queensland's land access laws already strike a fair balance between providing the community the benefits from development of the state's resource wealth and respecting the rights of farmers and landholders to keep running their businesses.</p> <p>Queensland's extraordinary natural endowment of mineral and petroleum wealth belongs to all Queenslanders. Farmers should have the right to determine who can come onto their land and when — whether they be in search of gas, minerals or coal, consistent with state laws. That is exactly what our current land access laws do.</p> <p>Resource companies are required by law to understand a farmer's business and how they might affect that business <i>before</i> they enter the land. They are also required by law to meet farmers' reasonable valuation, legal</p>	<p>The QRC Streamlining Report recommended the establishment of a stakeholder driven landholder support program across all commodities to replace the AgForward program which was defunded in 2018. QRC recommends that across recommendations #22 and #23, there is a budget opportunity for funding for a landholder support program run by a single body and focused on land access and landholder relationships with resource companies.</p>
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		<p>and accounting costs. Moreover, the current laws dictate compensation arrangements for any impacts on the farmer's business must be agreed by both parties before any impacts occur. On that basis QRC supports this action, as the principle represents the baseline against which most companies already operate. In many cases the relationship goes above and beyond the types of engagement laid out here. Many landholders benefit from roads, dams, fences and other infrastructure built on their land.</p> <p>QRC urges the Government to consider the applicability of the principles from exploration through production and how industry is expected to demonstrate adherence.</p> <p>The Land Access Code already includes general principles for both the resource authority and the landholder to develop good relations; it is difficult to see how the proposed principles add any further value. In contrast to the principles set out in the Code, the proposed principles focus entirely on the behaviours or resource companies.</p> <p>The level of detail in some of the principles is generally not relevant to landholders during the early stages of exploration where existing legislation facilitates land access with minimal disruption and appropriate compensation to landholders. QRC suggests the Government considers the detail in the following:</p>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Principle 2: Early engagement should also make clear that in a greenfields environment, exploration does not often progress into development.</li> <li>• Principle 4: the example to communicate early is arguably a repeat of principle 2, to engage early.</li> <li>• Principle 5: should note more clearly that landholders have the right to seek legal advice, instead of placing the onus on companies to outline the options landholders have.</li> </ul> <p>If pursued by Government, it may be more appropriate to develop principles after the review of coexistence institutions has taken place (action 23).</p>	
<p><b>23. Review land access and coexistence institutions</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC supports the streamlining of land access related statutory bodies and functions. A streamlining reform initiative should be undertaken to improve efficiency in dispute resolution options for resources companies and landholders. Any review of the statutory bodies would also need to address gaps in engagement for coal and mineral land access.</p> <p>QRC is also interested to understand whether large scale renewable projects will be</p>	

		<p>subjected to the same land access provisions as other resource operations. The utility scale renewable industry is already running into some of the same issues with coexistence that the industry addressed during the investment boom.</p> <p>QRC supports the use of case studies in the final QRIDP to illustrate leading practice. One of Queensland's best examples of coexistence is the work of the Wide Bay Burnett Resource Group. QRC commends this community cooperation as a practical case study of both key focus area 1 and 3 in the QRIDP, it illustrates both a community's drive to grow and diversify the industry (#1) as well as fostering coexistence and sustainable communities (#3).</p> <p>On 6 September, the Minister for Resources and the Chair of the Queensland Exploration Council (QEC) launched the Wide Bay Burnett Minerals Investment Prospectus, which is supported by a short video. The Queensland Exploration Council hosts these resources at <a href="https://aurex.com.au/ald-regional-investment-wbb/">https://aurex.com.au/ald-regional-investment-wbb/</a></p> <p>As the (then) Mayor of North Burnett Regional Council, Rachel Chambers says in the video (3:00 minutes):</p> <p><i>We see mining projects, or small mining projects, as really large regional opportunities.</i></p>	
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		<p>QRC and QEC both contributed to funding the development of the prospectus, because we'd never before seen a regional community coordinate a prospectus to market their mineral potential as a tool of economic diversification. The coordination of the research work from Wide Bay Regional Organisation of Councils sends a very strong signal to potential investors that this is a region looking to welcome the right resource projects to help build and diversify their economy.</p> <p>QRC congratulates DSDILGP, TSQ and DoR for their support of the Wide Bay Resources Group. The group's ongoing engagement with local Mayors is an excellent whole-of-government template. QRC commends this case study to the Department's consideration for the final QRIDP.</p>	
<p><b>24. Capture emerging coexistence issues in updated regional plans</b></p>	<p>More consultation required</p>	<p>QRC believes that regional plans are not fit-for-purpose as a regulatory instrument to resolve coexistence issues. Rather they risk a simplistic zoning approach which precludes coexistence with the designated land use. Mining resources need to be developed where they are found.</p> <p>QRC does not believe regional plans should be completely redrawn given the lengthy history of consultation and engagement on land use. However, QRC does support Government consideration of the changing nature of competing land uses and the</p>	<p>QRC suggests that addressing recommendations #23 and #22 properly would eliminate any need for major new spending in this area.</p>

		<p>coexistence requirements between resources and other industries, notably the renewable industry.</p> <p>The two major land uses are currently assessed at different levels of Government: solar by Local Government and wind and mining resources by the State Government.</p> <p>Inconsistencies in the regulation of large-scale solar across Local Governments has given rise to a disconnect between the land uses which should be better reflected in regional plans as they are updated.</p> <p>QRC has attached a related submission to address these issues (QRC Submission – Large scale renewable energy projects – land use conflicts- <b>attached</b>)</p> <p>The attached submission sets out the impacts of the rapid development of large-scale solar projects on the coexistence of renewable and resource projects and the key issues with the existing approval processes given they are administered at different levels of Government.</p>	
<p><b>25. Implement findings of Strong and Sustainable Communities Act review</b></p>	<p>Support with more consultation required on one recommendation</p>	<p>QRC has engaged regularly with the Queensland Government on this review and welcomes the constructive approach that was taken.</p> <p>The Final Report made four recommendations. The QRC supports three of these recommendations without comment,</p>	<p>QRC does not see a requirement for additional funding to be allocated to this recommendation.</p>

		<p>but has not supported Recommendation 3, that being:</p> <p>Implement collaborative data collection for the SSRC Act through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engagement with the resource industry to obtain annual updates on how large resource projects are achieving the intent of the SSRC Act</li> <li>• ongoing collaboration with the resource industry to identify and leverage other avenues for data collection</li> <li>• obtaining and analysing government collected data to identify whether the effects of the SSRC Act can be isolated from other factors that would have an influence on communities.</li> </ul> <p>QRC indicated it could not support Recommendation 3 due to the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the privacy and the security of data collected by OCG</li> <li>• the additional administrative and financial burden on the industry due to the need for additional resources to collect the data for each LRP and establishment/maintenance of relevant data systems</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the duplication of data provision to state government, and</li> <li>• lack of clarity on the type of data required, the intended purpose, reporting outputs and the distribution and/or access to finalised data and reports.</li> </ul> <p>The QRC does not consider the Final Report to have adequately addressed these serious concerns and believes more consultation is required. QRC has offered highly relevant data, under its annual Economic Contribution Survey, which is de-identified for commercial-in-confidence reasons, and is therefore highly appropriate for the purpose of demonstrating the alignment of the industry with the aims of the SSRC Act.</p> <p>Other sources of data are already available, and while the QRC appreciates that data currently collected by other State Government organisations might be, in some places, mis-aligned or difficult to adapt to the required purpose, this must be balanced against the intent of the Act not to impose an undue burden on resource sector companies, especially when the Final Report identifies that, in summary: “no specific evidence or information was provided in the submissions on the consultation report to justify the existing problems for the Act to address”. Recommendation 3 comes at a time where the resources sector is under intense scrutiny</p>	
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		<p>to demonstrate the value that it delivers to regional communities, which it consistently does.</p> <p>QRC believes this outstanding issue can be resolved and looks forward to further consultation with the Queensland Government on this item.</p>	
<p><b>26. Deliver the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC has worked constructively with the Queensland Government on the development of the Resources Community Infrastructure Fund since it was announced by then Deputy Premier Jackie Trad on 29 May 2019. Resources companies have contributed \$70 million to the \$100 million fund.</p> <p>QRC has welcomed the announcement of the first round of successful recipients by Deputy Premier Steven Miles on 14 December 2021, noting the broad range of projects that received support.</p> <p>The resources sector values our regional partnerships in the communities surrounding our projects.</p> <p>QRC believes royalty stability is essential for the resources sector and it is on this basis that the sector can continue to make significant investments with confidence in a manner that delivers for all Queenslanders, especially the local communities in which we operate.</p>	

<p><b>27. Continue the Local Thriving Communities reform</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The Queensland resources sector seeks to work respectfully and co-operatively with First Nations peoples. We are committed to providing economic opportunities for all.</p> <p>The resources sector is the only industry in Queensland to have achieved a representative share of jobs going to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, with more than 4% of the industry's employment going to Queensland's First Nations people. In addition, businesses owned and operated by First Nations people provide services to the industries.</p> <p>We will continue to work with Government, communities and First Nations peoples to deliver outcomes.</p>	
<p><b>28. Review, strengthen and improve Cultural Heritage Acts</b></p>	<p>Support with more consultation required</p>	<p>QRC has engaged with the Queensland Government on the draft options paper for the Cultural Heritage Acts review. We will continue that engagement consistent with the feedback already provided.</p>	
<p><b>29. Develop reconciliation action plans</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC supports ongoing work on reconciliation action plans.</p>	
<p><b>30. Assist in Closing the Gap through economic development opportunities</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC looks forward to continuing to work with both the Queensland Government and the Australian Government on Closing the Gap initiatives.</p>	
<p><b>31. Establish a working group to develop a Queensland resources</b></p>	<p>Support with further consultation</p>	<p>The QRC recognises that the skills mix in the resources sector will change over time. However, we reject suggestions that workers</p>	

<p><b>industry workforce plan</b></p>		<p>should be “reskilled” to move away from the sector. Automation can deliver enhanced safety outcomes, but automation cannot replace skilled workers essential for the resources sector. While there have been troubling statistics in recent years suggesting an increasing shortage of skilled workers including shortages resulting from a lack of enrolments in mining engineering, the QRC is working on a long-term strategy to attract more skilled workers to the sector, including through the work of the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy (QMEA).</p> <p>We would welcome the opportunity to participate on this working group.</p>	
<p><b>32. Support industry to attract a skilled workforce</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>The QRC recommends committing to long-term funding and support for QMEA that shores up the talent pipeline across professional and trades pathways and prepares young people for the skills needed in an increasingly technological industry. This could include working in partnership around specific “out of the box” mechanisms to attract young people into the sector.</p> <p>QRC recommends further work is undertaken with stakeholders to develop new strategies to attract, train and retain skilled workers across the employment spectrum. This could take the form of a standing working group encompassing the Government and industry, and other stakeholders including unions, universities, TAFE and other training providers.</p>	<p>QRC recommends in order to support the sustainability of the Queensland resources sector additional investment is required in both the skills pipeline to ensure the focus is on the right skills for the future resources sector workers and long-term skills for a long term and critical industry government investment. The investment sought is \$500,000 per year for each year of a three-year period (\$1.5m) or \$2.5m over 5 years commencing in 2022.</p> <p>This would encompass QMEA schools' expansion in areas of resource sector operations and in others where a QMEA presence does not exist e.g., Cairns (\$100,000 p/a), Digital skills growth in schools for both students and teachers (\$100,000 p/a) Digital Technology Enablers e.g., virtual mine tour, welding simulator (\$200,000 p/a), Attracting more Gen-Z students through</p>

		The process of developing statutory ticket holders must also be considered as part of this work as industry shortages in these categories represent a real threat to the resources sector.	targeted dedicated digital media campaign (\$100,000 p/a).
<b>33. Develop a diverse and inclusive workforce</b>	Support with further consultation	<p>QRC is committed to providing opportunities in the resources sector for all Queenslanders. The resources sector regularly reviews its performance and sets new diversity goals. About 20 per cent of the resources sector workforce is female, which was the result of deliberate goals and actions from across the sector over the last 15 years. The sector now has a goal of 30 per cent of the workforce being female employees by 2026.</p> <p>QRC has developed a diversity and inclusion action plan with oversight of the QRC Board. QRC would welcome the opportunity to further develop this plan or share learnings with the Queensland Government as part of our continuing engagement.</p> <p>QRC recognises not only more females but also more First Nations and Culturally and Linguistically diverse people are needed for the industry to be truly diverse</p>	QRC recommends Government investment of \$100,000 p/a over five years to encourage more females, Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse people to consider career opportunities in the resources sector. E.g., activity to include an inaugural Resources sector First Nations mentoring program for both men and women to grow the ranks at not only the operator level but also in middle and senior management.
<b>34. Support the training needs of existing and future workers</b>	Support, see note 31	See note 31 and 32	
<b>35. Continue to implement the Digital Professional</b>	Support in principle but more information required.	QRC will seek further information about the implementation of this plan.	

Workforce Action Plan 2020-2024			
<p><b>36. Improve resource project assessment processes</b></p>	<p>Support with further consultation</p>	<p>QRC supports this action and the recommendations made in the <a href="#">Business process mapping of resource project approvals in Queensland</a> developed by PwC. Many of these recommendations have been raised in numerous QRC submissions to Government as far back as 2010, including the <i>Streamlining Report 2020 (attached)</i> and QRC Submission – Gas Tenure Framework Industry Review <b>(attached)</b>.</p> <p>QRC would welcome further information from the Government as to how they intend to prioritise and implement the recommendations made in the PwC report to ensure the timely delivery of an efficient and effective approval framework. QRC understands that the Guidance for Resource Industry Project (GRIP) demonstrates the Government's commitment to taking a deeper dive into the issues raised in the PwC report, particularly as it relates to improving administrative processes and guidance and customer journey mapping. However, it is critical that this work translates into customer-centric actions led by Government and delivered in collaboration with the resources sector.</p> <p>While QRC supports improved guidance from the work of GRIP, the resources sector is not calling for 'more' guidance as is drafted in the expanded detail on this action on Page</p>	

		<p>80. QRC recommends the current drafting be amended to this effect.</p> <p>Further, GRIP needs to be supported by Government policies, procedures and training (including establishing a strong understanding of the industry) and improved sharing of information within departments and across Government. Such actions could reduce risk averse attitudes, excessive information requests and inconsistencies.</p> <p>In line with Action 37, QRC supports greater investment from the Queensland Government to improve data sharing and build on existing repositories for assessment processes. QRC sees several benefits from greater availability and accessibility of data in the public domain, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use in future development applications</li> <li>• use in Government's strategic planning, decision making and reporting</li> <li>• use in research; and</li> <li>• public transparency</li> </ul> <p>Proponents make significant investments to collect data to support Environmental Impact Statements (EIS). However, the format in which they are currently presented publicly</p>	
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		<p>(e.g., pdf report) and limitations in some Government systems constrains putting the data to work for broader purposes. QRC recommends the Government commit to creating or improving systems for centralised data submission from EISs and integration across relevant databases.</p> <p>This should be supported by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishment of consistent data models that specify minimum requirements for data (e.g., validation, format)</li> <li>• a review of which internal Government data systems could become public facing to add to the data lake (e.g., air quality)</li> <li>• ongoing resourcing and funding and improved governance for responsible administering authority/ies managing and curating data.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>37. Develop a data resources development plan</b></p>	<p>Support</p>	<p>QRC strongly supports this recommendation as the cost savings to industry and Government are exponential.</p> <p>QRC fully supports the findings and recommendations of the consultant report on business process mapping which reiterates QRC's Streamlining Report 2020 submission that the '<i>need for efficiency in reporting</i></p>	<p>Investment is required to enable the establishment of a standardised data sharing platform and repository. The Water Tracking and Electronic Reporting System (WaTERS) is a good example.</p>



		<p>requirements is one of the most crucial reforms that must be prioritised across government'. Recommendation 7.4 (see page 59  <a href="https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1588247/Business-process-mapping-report.pdf">https://www.resources.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1588247/Business-process-mapping-report.pdf</a>)</p>	
<b>38. Improve land release process</b>	Support	<p>QRC support this action which will reduce the existing investment uncertainty arising from exploration tenders which are not decided promptly. To address this, Government should ensure the decision relating to the preferred tender is advised within 6 months of the close of tenders, as set out in the QRC Streamlining Report.</p> <p>Any review of land release processes should include a commitment that Government will clarify why some areas are not released, for example there has been a de facto government policy position on development in the Cooper Basin for a number of years despite the absence of any formal position.</p> <p>Government might also consider scenarios where it would be appropriate to remove the tender process for certain areas altogether and replace with a direct application process as is currently in place for non-coal minerals– i.e., where encouraging greenfield exploration or activity in areas that haven't been considered for some time.</p>	

<b>39. Implement reforms for objections, review and notification processes for project approvals</b>	Support, see separate submission supplied by QRC in September 2021	QRC supports this review being undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission and set out some potential options for reform in the Submission to Government on the mining lease objection and appeals process (September 2021). QRC will remain engaged in the future consultation process.	
<b>40. Implement reforms for small scale mining</b>	Neutral	<p>QRC does not represent small-scale miners, therefore is neutral on this recommendation.</p> <p>QRC advocates best-practice engagement with affected stakeholders in the development or implementation of any reforms. QRC advocates for the application of the same principles of consultation as agreed to by the Government when developing reforms, namely a 12-week consultation period regarding reforms.</p>	
<b>41. Implement reforms of steel casing</b>	Support subject to separate submission supplied by QRC in October 2021	<p>QRC holds the same position as the recent submission to the Department of Resources in October 2021 where the following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree to removing prohibition where no overlapping tenure</li> <li>• clarity should be provided in the operational policy/regulation about where the prohibition applies plus some other amendments that were outlined in the paper</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>no evidence suggesting further reforms are needed. Strong evidence of a broad industry issue would be required for any move away from an exemption application process</li> </ul> <p>QRC will remain engaged on any further proposals for regulatory reform.</p>	
<b>42. Develop a fit-for-purpose framework for extractive industry assessment</b>	Neutral	QRC does not represent stakeholders that would be engaged on this reform, therefore reserves its position. QRC advocates for the application of the same principles of consultation as agreed to by the Government when developing reforms, namely a 12-week consultation period regarding reforms. QRC will engage further with the Government on this reform if required.	
<b>43. Improve cost recovery for government services provided to industry and ensure tenures are actively developed</b>	More consultation required	<p>QRC recommends the Government undertake a full Regulatory Impact Statement for this work. Cost recovery must be strongly linked with efficiency, transparency and effectiveness measures and there should be no increase in application fees if there is no corresponding attempt by Government agencies to streamline their processes.</p> <p>QRC recommends that an independent third-party, such as the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) be tasked with reviewing regulatory costs to ensure that they are efficient, effective and necessary before any costs are recovered.</p>	QRC recommends that the Department of Resources make a bid for the cost of a full Regulatory Impact Statement as well as for the costs of having the QCA independently review the efficiency of each charge. The assessment should consider the contribution of the industry through royalties, voluntary payments to communities and economic growth.

		<p>QRC also reiterates concerns that have been articulated to the Premier and to the Minister for Resources with regard to significant increases in the mines and explosives safety and health fee. In this case an information paper was released advising of a fee increase of greater than 30 per cent from 1 January 2022 without any consultation with the industry and without any justification or transparency relating to the massive increase. QRC is concerned if this approach is taken to fee increases without substantive and detailed consultation and explanation.</p>	
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